

Jeff Morrison's response to Hollaback! Ottawa

Your question was: "How do you plan to address gender-based violence in Ottawa"? My response is as follows:

First, thank you for the question. Public safety for all residents of our community has to be a priority. In our ward, there are a number of actions that I'd like to see be taken, which include:

-I'd like our new councillor to facilitate links between neighbourhoods and groups like Crime Prevention Ottawa and the City Police to put in place more Neighbourhood Watches. If a woman feels threatened, we should ensure that there are local, neighbourhood-by-neighbourhood resources that she can go to for safety. I started up a Neighbourhood Watch years ago.

-In Somerset ward, I'd like to return the Community Police Office back into the community (several years ago it was moved to City Hall). That Community Police Office was an immediate resource that women and men could use if they felt or were threatened.

-I was quoted in the Centretown News last year as favoring more special OC Transpo constables. To that, I would add that we need more police "walking/cycling" patrols, particularly targeted to those areas of the city that are the proven trouble spots.

-As the past President of Centretown Community Health Centre, and as someone heavily involved with groups like Pink Triangle Services, Jers Vision, and Operation Come Home, I fully agree that more sexual health awareness, and promotion of LGBT acceptable is extremely important. Anti-bullying campaigns, "Take Back The Night" rallies, and creating safe spaces for GLBT, particularly youth, should all be key priorities. Sexual harassment in any public gathering should be considered a crime and treated as such.

-I'd add that I, nor any one person, has all the ideas in terms of how best to end gender-based violence. If elected, let's work together to identify additional steps and measures that could be taken to address gender-based violence.